

II. Listing of Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A lifting unit for lifting the rear part of a hood or bonnet, the lifting unit comprising a hollow cylindrical guide and at least one piston moveable relative to the hollow cylindrical guide, the piston being of hollow cylindrical form.
2. (Currently Amended) A lifting unit according to Claim 1 wherein the lifting unit ~~incorporates~~ further comprises two pistons each of the pistions moveable relative to the guide and each of the pistons moveable relative to the ~~other piston~~ others of the pistons.
3. (Currently Amended) A lifting unit according to Claim 2 wherein both of ~~said~~ the pistons are of hollow cylindrical form, ~~the two~~ both of the pistons being telescopically inter-engaged, the innermost of the piston telescopically engaging the cylindrical guide.
4. (Currently Amended) A lifting unit according to Claim 2 wherein the lifting unit further comprises ~~incorporates~~ one ~~cylindrical piston~~ of the pistons moveable relative to the guide and the one piston ~~comprising~~ having a piston head and a piston rod moveable relative to the said cylindrical piston.

5. (Currently Amended) A lifting unit according to Claim 4 wherein the piston rod is connected to the piston head by a yieldable coupling to enable the piston rod to be deflected from an initial axis of movement of the piston rod.
6. (Original) A lifting unit according to Claim 4 wherein the piston head is provided with a peripheral resilient sealing ring to facilitate deflection of the piston rod from an initial axis of movement of the piston rod.
7. (Currently Amended) A lifting unit according to Claim 2 wherein the lifting unit defines an inner ~~guide-cylinder~~ hollow cylindrical guide and an outer hollow cylindrical guide sleeve, ~~a-cylindrical~~ the piston being located between the inner ~~guide cylinder~~ guide and the outer guide sleeve.
8. (Currently Amended) A lifting unit according to Claim 7 wherein an outer part of the inner cylindrical guide sleeve defines a first groove and an inner part of the ~~cylindrical~~ piston defines a second groove, the grooves being co-aligned when the piston is in an initial condition relative to the ~~guide-cylinder~~ inner cylindrical guide, there being a releasable element contained within the ~~co-aligned~~ grooves to retain the piston in the initial condition.
9. (Currently Amended) A lifting unit according to Claim 7 ~~or 8~~ wherein the outer hollow guide sleeve is provided with a re-entrant top portion configured to engage a piston head provided on the ~~cylindrical~~ piston.

10. (Currently Amended) A lifting unit for ~~lifting~~ lifting a part of a hood or bonnet, the lifting unit comprising a plurality of elements, at least one ~~element~~ of the elements being moveable relative to another ~~element~~ of the elements along a predetermined axis, the lifting unit being ~~mounted or~~ configured so that when the lifting unit is actuated at least part of the lifting unit may deviate from the ~~said~~ axis to facilitate the effecting of a virtual pivoting movement of the rear part of a ~~hood~~ the hood or bonnet.

11. (Original) A lifting unit according to Claim 10 wherein the entire lifting unit is mounted to be tilted from an initial position.

12. (Original) A lifting unit according to Claim 11 wherein the lifting unit is mounted with an abutment face present on the lifting unit engaging a resilient element mounted on a support, the resilient element being configured to be deformed to permit the tilting.

13. (Currently Amended) A lifting unit according to any one of Claims 10 ~~to 12~~ wherein ~~the lifting unit comprise a plurality of elements, at least one element being moveable relative to another element along a predetermined axis,~~ at least one part of the unit being yieldable to enable one element to be deflected from ~~said~~ the axis on deployment of the lifting element.

14. (Currently Amended) A lifting element according to ~~any one of Claims 10 to 43~~ Claim 10 wherein the lifting element incorporates a piston having a piston head and a piston rod, the piston rod being connected to the piston head with a yieldable coupling so that the piston rod may become deflected from the axis of movement of the piston.

15. (Original) A lifting unit according Claim 14 wherein the piston rod has a relatively narrow portion which passes through an aperture formed in part of the piston head, a resilient washer being trapped adjacent piston head by a flange provided on the piston rod.

16. (Currently Amended) A lifting unit according Claim 14 wherein ~~a piston~~ the piston head is provided with a resilient sealing washer capable of deforming to permit one element of the lifting unit to become inclined.

17. (Currently Amended) A lifting unit according to ~~any one of the preceding Claims~~ Claim 10 wherein a piston is provided with a mounting lug provided with an aperture to receive a pivot pin.